



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 4 February 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- A report in the Sierra Sun detailed a Thursday drill in Martis Valley California in which firefighters from the Eastern and Central Hazardous Materials Teams joined with the military's 95th Civil Support Team to practice rescues and evacuations in the event of a chemical, biological, or radiological attack. The 22-member support team is one of 54 identical teams nationwide. (See item [3](#))
- According to CNN and other sources, another undersea cable carrying Internet and telephone traffic was cut Friday, this time about 50 kilometers off the Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai. The cut cable was the third such loss in three days after two lines linking Europe and the Middle East were apparently damaged by a ship's anchor Wednesday. The cause of the third incident remained unclear, and officials said repair ships were en route. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *February 1, FERC News* – (National) **FERC accepts Midwest ISO-PJM transmission pricing plan; rejects AEP challenge.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has accepted a compliance filing on fixed cost recovery policies for pricing transmission service between two broad multi-state regional transmission organizations

(RTOs) that extend from the Atlantic coast to the Upper Midwest. FERC also rejected a complaint by American Electric Power Service Corporation (AEP) that challenged those policies. The two RTOs filed a proposal that would continue to use their existing inter-RTO rate design to price transmission service between the RTOs to take effect February 1, 2008. “We find that the existing inter-RTO rate design provides the appropriate incentives to construct new high-voltage facilities that perform inter-RTO functions (i.e. those built in one RTO that provide benefits to the other RTO),” FERC said. “This order helps ensure regulatory stability on cost recovery rules necessary to encourage large investments in the power grid that will be recovered over time,” said FERC’s chairman. Source: <http://www.ferc.gov/news/news-releases/2008/2008-1/02-01-08.asp>

2. *January 31, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Challenge to Ill. energy plant rejected.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) appeals board has rejected a challenge to the Taylorville Energy Center slated for central Illinois, clearing the way for the coal plant to be built once it receives final legislative approval. The Sierra Club appealed the \$2 billion plant last summer, arguing the state EPA did not do enough to limit the project’s global warming emissions. But the federal regulators struck down the appeal Monday, saying the Sierra Club raised its concerns too late in the review process. The plant is intended to turn Illinois’ high-sulfur coal into a synthetic gas for use in producing electricity and will become the state’s first clean-coal plant to use Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle technology. Officials have said they hope the plant could begin operating as soon as 2012.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/fn/5502764.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

3. *February 1, Sierra Sun* – (California) **Firefighters, military simulate toxic emergency.** Firefighters cloaked in lime green plastic suits scurried around the Martis Valley fire station, California, Thursday drilling for the rescues and evacuations necessary in case of a local chemical or biological attack. The firefighters are part of the Eastern and Central Hazardous Materials Teams, and were joined by the military’s 95th Civil Support Team out of Hayward. The support team consists of 22 personnel and a commander from various branches of the military service. There are 54 identical teams throughout the country, and members are prepared to respond to any weapons of mass destruction emergency, including chemical, biological, and radiological weapons as well as explosives, said a Truckee Fire Protection District’s public safety and information officer. Observers followed each team throughout the drill to assess their accuracy in identifying and responding to the toxic agent.

Source: <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/SS/20080201/NEWS01/750362625/-1/REGION>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *February 1, Reuters* – (Michigan) **DTE shuts Michigan Fermi 2 reactor.** DTE Energy Co. shut the 1,122-megawatt nuclear Unit 2 at the Fermi power station in Monroe County, Michigan, from full power on January 31 due to the shutdown of both reactor re-circulation pumps, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The company said all systems operated as designed to shut the reactor and it was investigating what caused the re-circulation pumps to shut.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0147044120080201>
5. *February 1, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Exelon Ill. Braidwood 1 reactor cut to 21 percent power.** Exelon Corp.'s 1,178-megawatt Unit 1 at the Braidwood nuclear power station in Will County, Illinois, dipped to 21 percent power by early Friday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. On Thursday, the unit was operating at full power. The station's other unit continued to operate at full power.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0117328020080201>
6. *January 31, RIA Novosti* – (International) **U.S. changes position on START-1 Treaty.** The Bush Administration has changed its stance on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1) and will agree to Russia's demands for a legally binding replacement, a U.S. senator said. The senator made his comments at a conference on weapons of mass destruction on Wednesday entitled "Defense in Depth against WMD Threats: Preparedness at Home and Abroad," in Chantilly, Virginia. He said: "Last year, I was concerned by reports that U.S.-Russian negotiations did not include discussions of a legally binding treaty or the continuation of a formal verification regime. I am pleased to report that the Administration has changed course and will accept a legally-binding regime." START-1 was signed by the U.S. and the Soviet Union on July 31, 1991 and remains in force among the U.S., Russia, and three other ex-Soviet states. The U.S. and Russia have reduced the number of delivery vehicles to 1,600, with no more than 6,000 warheads. The treaty is set to expire on December 5, 2009. The senator said the confidence provided by the treaty and its effective verification regime will reduce the chances of misinterpretation and error.
Source: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20080131/98115636.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *February 1, Defense News* – (National) **U.S. Navy issues contracts for cargo ships, vehicle transfer technique.** Several contracts were issued January 31 by the U.S. Navy for the design of a high-speed cargo ship, construction of another dry cargo ammunition ship, and development and testing of a new way to transfer vehicles between ships at sea. Austal USA, General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, and Bollinger Shipyards each received a \$3 million firm fixed-price contract to carry out competing preliminary designs of the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV), a small logistics ship that will be used

by the Army and Navy to rapidly transfer troops, vehicles, and equipment by sea. The Pentagon intends to buy five JHSVs for the Army and three for the Navy. The Army's first ship was included in the 2008 budget, and the Navy plans to order the first ship by the end of this year. The Naval Sea Systems Command awarded a \$460 million contract to General Dynamics National Steel and Shipbuilding for a tenth T-AKE Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship, to be delivered in February 2012. A \$20 million award went to MacGregor USA to design, build, and test the Test Article Vehicle Transfer System, intended to allow large vehicles to pass from a Maritime Prepositioning Force Future ship and a Large Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off ship. MacGregor is set to complete the program by November 2009.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3347146&C=america>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *February 1, WYFF 4 Greenville* – (South Carolina) **DHEC laptop with employee information stolen.** A laptop computer belonging to a state agency has been reported stolen, along with personal information on hundreds of government workers it contained. The computer belongs to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. State officials said the laptop contained names and Social Security numbers of 400 Upstate employees. It was stolen from an employee's vehicle last week in Spartanburg, South Carolina, DHEC said. DHEC said that the data is password protected and that so far there is no evidence of any identity theft.
Source: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/15192292/detail.html>
9. *January 31, Computerworld* – (National) **Visa adds to its list of payment apps that improperly store card data.** Visa Inc. this week privately issued an updated list of payment applications that store all of the magnetic-stripe data taken from credit and debit cards, as part of its ongoing effort to get retailers and other merchants to stop using such software. Visa began distributing the list last April and has updated it every three months since then. The company does not make the list openly available and has not publicly identified any of the vendors whose products are on it. Instead, Visa sends the list to so-called acquiring banks, the financial institutions that authorize merchants to accept payment-card transactions. Despite an admonition, a copy of a Visa bulletin containing the latest list was posted this week on a payment security Web site operated by software vendor VeriFone Inc. The list now includes more than 50 products from a total of 22 companies. Visa said in the bulletin that the applications on the list are known to store each piece of data that can be captured from the magnetic stripes on the back of credit and debit cards. That violates the security rules set out in Visa's operating regulations and the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard, which is better known by the acronym PCI. According to Visa's list, almost all of the flagged applications have either been replaced by newer versions that do not retain magnetic-stripe data, or patched so that they no longer store the information. The continued storage of magnetic-stripe data, PINs, and card verification values by merchants is what has made payment systems such an attractive target for malicious hackers, according to analysts. But the fact that some payment applications store the prohibited data by default

– sometimes without the knowledge of the companies using them – has made it hard for many retailers to comply with the PCI requirements. Beginning July 1, all VisaNet payment processors and processing agents will have to ensure that new applications they implement are fully compliant with Visa’s mandates.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9060538&intsrc=hm_list

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

10. *January 31, KUSA 9 Denver* – (Colorado) **AA flight makes emergency landing.** An American Airlines flight from New Jersey to Los Angeles had to make an emergency landing in Grand Junction, Colorado, Wednesday night. The plane landed after someone noticed smoke in the back of the plane. A passenger said it smelled like some sort of chemical. All 110 people were evacuated from the plane after landing. Firefighters went inside with thermal imaging equipment to look for hot spots. They could not find anything. As a precaution, American Airlines grounded the plane and sent another to get the passengers to Los Angeles.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=85519>

11. *January 31, U.S. Department of Transportation* – (National) **Passenger train safety to be improved.** Commuter and intercity passenger rail equipment will be safer under a new federal rule that ensures improved emergency window exit availability, specifies additional emergency rescue features, and requires two-way communication systems, announced a Federal Railroad Administrator. He explained that the new regulations issued by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) mandate that passenger rail cars be equipped with two-way communication systems that better help train crews inform and instruct passengers during emergency situations and allow passengers to report potential safety or security problems to them. Also, emergency evacuation and rescue access windows are required at all levels with passenger seating, and all new passenger rail cars must be equipped with emergency roof access locations, he added. In addition, the rule includes minimum requirements for the inspection, testing, maintenance, and repair of these safety systems. The new rule also addresses a safety recommendation made and other concerns raised by the National Transportation Safety Board following fatal passenger train accidents, including an April 2002 collision between a BNSF Railway freight train and a Metrolink passenger train in Placentia, California, and a February 1996 collision between two New Jersey Transit commuter trains in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra0308.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture and Food Sector

12. *February 1, United Press International* – (National) **FDA issues contaminated cheese warning.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued a consumer warning and recall of possibly contaminated Grassy Meadows Dairy Co. cheeses. Routine surveillance by the Indiana Board of Animal Health's Dairy Division revealed high levels of staphylococcus aureus in several raw milk cheeses manufactured by the Howe, Indiana dairy. Because of the facility's location, the FDA said consumers in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana should also check their refrigerators for the recalled items. Products of concern include, but are not limited to, Colby (lot no. 210317 and 19177), Jalapeno natural cheese (lot no. 2617, 21017 and 11017), "Homemade" cheese (lot no. 19267 and 19227), Monterey Jack (lot no. 18207 and 2937), and garlic pepper cheese (lot no. 19147). All were sold in wedges or blocks of various weights.
Source: http://www.themoneytimes.com/news/20080201/fda_issues_contaminated_cheese_warning-id-1016635.html
13. *February 1, Associated Press* – (Montana) **State halts beef consumption from company accused of cattle abuse.** Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services wants all state food programs to stop using ground beef from a California company accused of mistreating cattle. The U.S. Department of Agriculture told the state health department Wednesday night that all ground beef supplied to Montana and 36 other states by Westland Meat Company should be placed on hold. Health and Human Services says it is concerned that "downer" cows – those that are too sick or injured to walk – were processed. "Downer" cows pose a higher risk of carrying disease. The beef is distributed every month to school lunch programs, senior centers, food banks, and Indian Reservations throughout the state. There have been no reported illnesses associated with the beef thus far.
Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/204208.asp>
14. *January 31, Environmental News Network* – (Pacific Northwest) **Chinook salmon runs in California collapse.** On Tuesday, the Pacific Fishery Management Council warned that the numbers of the California's Central Valley run, the bay's biggest wild salmon run, had plummeted to near record lows, portending sharp fishing restrictions and rising prices for consumers. In April, the council will set restrictions on the salmon season, which typically starts in May. A shortage could drive up the price of West Coast wild salmon. The council's leaders said the news is troubling because normally healthy runs of Central Valley chinook salmon are heavily relied upon by fishermen. Runs on the other river systems historically have been smaller. The economic impacts from the loss of salmon also would affect businesses associated with sport fishing, including the boating, hotel, and manufacturing industries.
Source: http://www.enn.com/top_stories/article/30377
15. *January 31, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Botulism threat leads to green bean recall.** A

batch of recalled green beans has turned up in some school lunch programs in northern Iowa, but no students became ill. The beans, produced by the New Era Canning Company of Michigan, were recalled earlier this month because they could be contaminated with botulism. The beans showed up in at least three school districts – Rockwell Swaledale, Sheffield SCMT, and Lake City. The cans were purchased primarily by institutions such as schools, retailers, and restaurants.

Source: <http://www.kwwl.com/News/index.php?ID=21045>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

16. *February 1, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **City set to hire new security firm at water plants.** The Water Management Department has picked a replacement for the security firm whose guards were yanked out of Chicago's water-filtration plants last fall for allegedly sleeping on the job and abandoning their posts. If the chief procurement officer signs off on the deal, Honor Guard Security will be replaced by Chicago-based SkyTech Enterprises Ltd. SkyTech was not the lowest bidder, but was the most qualified and responsive, the first deputy chief procurement officer said.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/politics/770828,CST-NWS-water01.article>

17. *January 31, Reuters* – (National) **Scientists see looming water crisis in western U.S.** A water supply crisis is looming in the western United States thanks to human-caused climate change that already has altered the region's river flows, snow pack, and air temperatures, scientists said. Trends over the past half century foreshadow a worsening decline in water, perhaps the region's most valuable natural resource, even as population and demand expands in western states, researchers led by a scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography wrote in the journal *Science* on Thursday. Up to 60 percent of changes in three key factors affecting the West's water cycle – river flow, winter air temperatures, and snow pack – are due to human-caused climate change, they determined using multiple computer models and data analysis. The team leader, a climate expert at Scripps Institution, said computer models point to a looming crisis in water supply in the coming two decades.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN3132180520080131?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews&rpc=22&sp=true>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

18. *February 1, News Network International* – (International) **Bird flu detected in S. Pakistan.** The H5N1 bird flu virus has been detected in a poultry farm in southern Pakistan's port city of Karachi. The virus has been detected in Gadap Town of Karachi city, said the report, adding that at least 5,000 chickens have been killed and buried on Friday in view of the outbreak. The director of Sindh Poultry Research said that preventive measures were necessary to check the spread of the virus, and that the

affected poultry farm was being sprayed, and the poultry workers had been directed to wear hand gloves during their duties at farms. Pakistan Poultry Association has demanded the government vaccinate meat-providing birds in the country.

Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/01/content_7546241.htm

19. *January 31, Time* – (International) **Drug-resistant flu virus on the rise.** This winter's most common flu strain is showing resistance to the frontline anti-flu treatment, new data shows. More than 10 percent of virus samples taken in Western Europe this winter were resistant to oseltamivir, better known as Tamiflu, according to figures from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Nearly 10 percent of the samples in Canada were also resistant, according to national authorities there, and the U.S. found nearly 7 percent resistance. The number of resistant strains is still small overall, but the superbugs are not evenly distributed around the world: in Norway, a staggering 75 percent of the 16 samples taken this winter were drug-resistant – enough to increase Western Europe's average by about eight percentage points. All the samples are from a strain of flu virus known as H1N1, a subtype of the influenza A virus. The most troubling thing about the ECDC study was the 75 percentage resistance rate found in Norway. That rate is currently unexplainable since Norwegians do not routinely prescribe Tamiflu to their patients and viruses develop resistance to drugs through repeated exposure to those drugs.

Source: <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1708867,00.html>

20. *January 31, USA Today* – (National) **FDA cites toxic risk of popular head-lice drug.** The sole U.S. maker of an insecticide-based treatment for head lice has stopped promoting the product after a sharply worded warning from the Food and Drug Administration that its marketing misled consumers by downplaying the rare, but serious, risks of the treatments. The move follows years of controversy over prescription shampoo and lotion treatments that contain the insecticide lindane, including a ban on their use in California. Lawmakers in Michigan, New York, and Minnesota are considering curbing use of the products. In a little-noticed December letter, the FDA cites concern over some of the information drugmaker Morton Grove Pharmaceuticals provided on websites and in mailed materials, including a statement by the company that treating head lice effectively requires two applications, several days apart. That is “extremely alarming given that re-treatment with Lindane Shampoo can lead to increased exposure and possibly death,” the FDA says. Millions of cases of head lice and body mites are reported each year in the USA, often among children. More than 166,000 prescriptions for lindane treatments – almost 10 percent of all prescriptions for head lice and scabies – were written from January to November 2007, according to the tracking firm IMS Health.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2008-01-30-lindane_N.htm

Government Facilities Sector

21. *February 1, Erie Times-News* – (New York) **Suspected pipe bomb found at courthouse.** An employee at the Erie County, New York, Courthouse noticed a pipe

with a cap on either end and a fuse on the front steps of the courthouse around 7:50 a.m. on January 31 and notified the sheriff. He had discovered what the FBI later said was a suspected pipe bomb. The device, which was about eight inches long, has been sent to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives lab in Maryland for analysis. Investigators said they had leads in the case, but had made no arrests Thursday. An Erie Bomb Squad technician disabled the device by blowing off one of its end caps while the device sat on the steps of the courthouse. The FBI, ATF, and Erie police are conducting a joint investigation into who left the device.

Source:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080201/NEWS02/802010368>

22. *February 1, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **PA teacher accused of school threats.**

In Pennsylvania, a teacher who was upset because she did not get her preferred classroom assignment left more than a dozen scribbled threats at her elementary school and a suspicious device in a student's desk, authorities said. Authorities said the fourth-grade teacher scribbled messages on school walls and on paper that threatened bomb and gun violence. The messages were written in sloppy handwriting with numerous misspellings and some with crudely drawn cartoons, police said. Police also allege that the teacher put a water bottle containing white powder and screws into a student's desk and scattered nails around the lot where teachers parked, leading to school trips and activities being delayed or canceled. In an interview with police, the teacher denied having anything to do with the incidents and said she was not upset about not getting a fifth-grade teaching position, according to a court document. Her attorney rejected the allegations.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080201/ap_on_re_us/teacher_threats;_ylt=An4HHw_IA9Rghk3tHtRboFas0NUE

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

23. *February 1, EMSResponder.com* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans EMS ready for Mardi**

Gras. Mardi Gras revelers have descended here for parades, beads, and parties. More EMS crews will be on the street over the next few days while the annual celebration is in full swing, said a paramedic and spokesperson for New Orleans EMS. "More than 95 percent of our staff will be working during carnival season," he said in a telephone interview Thursday night. "Emergency physicians also are available to respond on calls with the medics." With hospitals still closed and ambulance wait times increasing, EMS officials requested help from state officials. "With the influx of people expected, we knew there was no way we could handle things adequately. The state agreed and generously donated funding." In addition, revelers who suddenly find themselves in need of medical care can seek help in two tents or temporary urgent care facilities. "These will be a huge asset for us," he said, adding that people with minor injuries or illnesses can seek help there instead of calling for an ambulance. He said the New York based DHS Systems, LLC, has donated a climate-controlled tent, valued at \$500,000. The city also has erected a huge tent to help ease traffic in its already strapped

emergency departments. The facilities opened Friday, and will remain open through Wednesday. EMS crews – strategically placed throughout the city – will be on bikes, ATVs, and Sprint cars. They also have a John Deere gator available.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/New-Orleans-EMS-Ready-for-Mardi-Gras/1\\$6944](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/New-Orleans-EMS-Ready-for-Mardi-Gras/1$6944)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

24. *February 1, ComputerWeekly.com* – (National) **Spyware morphs into new threats.**

Security software firm McAfee has warned that spyware is getting out of control and “morphing” into new threats. The McAfee “Spyware: A Morphing Campaign” report examines the evolution of adware and spyware and details the current threats to society. The McAfee report details how spyware has become a financially-driven business and is increasingly used in cybercrime and even domestic violence cases. Using spyware for surveillance in cases of domestic abuse is a serious matter, says the report. Installing software to track and control an unaware victim’s computer has social and legal implications. Gartner estimates that by 2010, 70 percent of all IT security incidents will be spyware-related. McAfee’s Avert Labs report that rootkits, which are used to hide spyware, are on the rise, and more than 12,000 variants exist in the wild.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2008/02/01/229233/spyware-morphs-into-new-threats.htm>

25. *February 1, Computer Weekly.com* – (National) **Hackers setting security blog**

honeytraps. Malware distributors are setting up security blogs to attract web surfers looking for security information before redirecting them to other sites that infect their machines with malware. In most cases, the visitor is automatically redirected from the blog page to a randomly selected porn site, but in some cases the redirect is to rogue security sites that offer fake security applications and infect visitors with spyware and Trojans. Google’s Blogger.com is the most popular free blog with tools for creating and hosting blogs. Creating and editing blogs on Blogger is simple, as anyone can sign up for an account, choose a template for their blog’s look, and be up and running within minutes. Blogger lets users add and arrange page elements merely by dragging and clicking. The Aladdin eSafe Content Security Response Team, which reported the new threat, says malware distributors are using this feature to plant malicious scripts inside scam-filled blogs that redirect victims to a wide range of websites harboring various kinds of malware.

Source: <http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2008/02/01/229223/hackers-setting-security-blog-honeytraps.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

Communications Sector

26. *February 1, CNN* – (International) **Third undersea Internet cable cut in Mideast.** An undersea cable carrying Internet traffic was cut off the Persian Gulf emirate of Dubai, officials said Friday, the third loss of a line carrying Internet and telephone traffic in three days. Dubai has been hit hard by an Internet outage apparently caused by a cut undersea cable. Ships have been dispatched to repair two undersea cables damaged on Wednesday off Egypt. The ships were expected to reach the site of the break on Tuesday with repairs completed by February 12, according to a press release from FLAG Telecom, which owns one of the cables. The loss of the two Mediterranean cables has snarled Internet and phone traffic from Egypt to India. Officials said Friday it was unclear what caused the damage to FLAG's FALCON cable about 50 kilometers off Dubai. A repair ship was en route, FLAG said. A senior analyst with TeleGeography said the FALCON cable is designed on a "ring system," taking it on a circuit around the Persian Gulf and enabling traffic to be more easily routed around damage. He said the two cables damaged Wednesday collectively account for as much as three-quarters of the international communications between Europe and the Middle East, so their loss had a much bigger effect. Still, he stressed that although the problem created a "big pain" for many of carriers, it did not compare to the several months of disruption in East Asia in 2006 after an earthquake damaged seven undersea cables near Taiwan. TeleGeography Research's director said new cables planned to link Europe with Egypt should provide enough backup to prevent most similar problems in the future.
<http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/meast/02/01/internet.outage/index.html>

27. *January 31, Network World* – (International) **Internet cable cuts raise alarms over infrastructure vulnerabilities.** It does not look as though the Web traffic disruption that occurred this week after two underwater cables were damaged in Mediterranean Sea will have much of an impact on businesses in America. An analyst with TeleGeography Research says the two cables account for about 75 percent of the network capacity between Europe and the Middle East. But while the damaged cables have caused major service problems in the Middle East and parts of Asia, both ISPs and experts say the disruptions are unlikely to greatly affect American businesses. There has been reported difficulty, however, with receiving data sent from the United States to countries affected by the cable damage. Keynote Systems, a company that monitors Internet and mobile Web site performance, found in India that there has been an average 50 percent increase in the time it takes to download Web sites and a 10 percent decrease in the availability of Web sites overall. A Keynote representative believes the damaged cable incident will spur many global companies to think about new ways of staying connected to the Web in case of emergencies. In particular, he says companies should look into having backup connectivity through multi-homing their ISPs or even through having a satellite uplink for last-resort connections. On a more macro level, the damage to the cables has raised concerns about future incidents in which a greater number of cables could experience more significant levels of destruction. The chief of the IGI Group of Companies says one problem with many of the underwater cable systems is that many of the cables join together at shared landing points that could leave large swathes of telecom infrastructure

vulnerable to potential terrorist attacks. The director of the University of Minnesota's Digital Technology Center shares those concerns and predicts that in the near future, companies will start demanding that operators diversify the locations of their cabling systems, so that if one major system goes down, traffic can more quickly be rerouted along an alternate path. He also thinks the estimated two-week repair time for the cables is relatively slow and shows that operators may need to put more money into repair infrastructure in order to prevent similarly long outages in the future.

Source: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/013108-web-disruption-internet-infrastructure.html>

28. *January 31, ConsumerAffairs.com* – (National) **President declares broadband ‘connection accomplished.’** The Bush administration has released a new report detailing its success in fostering policies for widespread broadband Internet adoption in America. But critics charge the report is based on flawed data and does not accurately depict the true state of broadband usage, one where rural and low-income communities only have one choice for Internet service – when they can get service at all. The “Networked Nation: Broadband In America” report was prepared by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an arm of the Commerce Department that advises the White House on communications policy. The report stated that since President Bush took office in 2000, the total number of broadband lines in the United States has grown by over 1,100 percent from almost 6.8 million lines to 82.5 million in December 2006. The NTIA report, using data provided by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), also stated that number of broadband service providers in America more than tripled from December 2003 to December 2006, and that home broadband usage has increased from 9.1 percent of households in September 2001 to 50.8 percent in October 2007. But many critics have decried the U.S.’s broadband advances as insufficient when compared to other countries.
Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/01/ntia_broadband.html
29. *January 31, Ars Technica* – (National) **Fixing US broadband: \$100 billion for fiber to every home.** The U.S. is in desperate need of 100 Mbps “big broadband.” That is the conclusion of a new report from EDUCAUSE, a group that represents IT managers at over 2,200 colleges and universities. But these 100 Mbps connections are coming slowly; in the meantime, countries like Japan already have them. To avoid falling further behind, the report calls for a national broadband policy to be passed this year, one that includes \$100 billion for a fiber-to-the-home infrastructure that will connect every household and business in the country. The report opens by citing the familiar, dreary facts: U.S. broadband might now be widely available, but it is slow and relatively expensive. Between 1999 and 2006, the U.S. fell from third place to 20th in the International Telecommunications Union’s broadband usage measurements. When it comes to average connection speeds, the US is beaten by Japan, France, Korea, Sweden, New Zealand, Italy, Finland, Portugal, Australia, Norway, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, and Germany. The U.S. also ranked 18th worldwide in terms of cost per megabyte. The report cites two reasons for the standings. First, the report says, the U.S. lacks national investment policy in broadband infrastructure, though some states have launched their own investment programs. Second, the report sites the failure of the U.S.

broadband market due to a lack of competition caused by the failure to adopt “unbundling rules.”

Source: <http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080131-fixing-us-broadband-100-billion-for-fiber-to-every-home.html>

30. *January 31, Sacramento Bee* – (California) **Sacramento Wi-Fi project to start.** Sacramento, California, is taking another crack at citywide wireless service and plans to launch a downtown pilot program in February. The funding for the \$1 million pilot project is in place, bankrolled by Sacramento Metro Connect LLC. The project, which was delayed for the second time last autumn, will center on a part of the city’s downtown grid. It is to be completed by May. The pilot is the first phase of a \$9 million three-phase project, said the city’s chief information officer. The next two phases, seen as a continuous rollout, would cover 46 square miles and then 48 square miles across the city over the next 20 to 24 months, starting from city-owned buildings and working outward, he said. Ultimately, Metro Connect would cover up to 95 percent of Sacramento with wireless Internet access. Connections of up to one megabit per second are to be free, but will include pop-up ads. Metro Connect could charge between \$15 and \$50 a month for those who want faster connections. The city of Sacramento would have the option of buying wireless at discounted rates for its mobile employees, for heating, air conditioning, and utility control systems, said the CIO. Locally and nationwide, results have been hit-and-miss. West Sacramento and Elk Grove are among Sacramento-area cities with Wi-Fi, while Folsom has scaled back its initial wireless efforts. Leaders believe Sacramento will be the first major city to move forward with its wireless plans after recent high-profile setbacks in San Francisco, Chicago, and St. Louis.
- Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/103/story/675499.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *January 31, Associated Press* – (National) **15 more cities on Homeland Security terror-risk list.** More cities across the country are considered at high risk of a terrorist attack, according to a new list of funding priorities from the Homeland Security Department. Last year, the department made 45 cities or regions eligible for a competitive counterterrorism grant program. This year, the list has been expanded to 60 areas that can apply for the nearly \$782 million available, according to documents obtained by the Associated Press. The department divides the regions at highest risk of a terrorist attack into two tiers. The seven highest-risk areas -- including Los Angeles, New York and Washington -- will be competing for about \$430 million this year. The remaining 53 will compete for about \$352 million. Albany, New York, was put back on the list this year after being dropped in 2003. Other regions added to the list this year are: Rochester, New York; Syracuse, New York; Austin and Round Rock, Texas; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Bridgeport, Stamford, and Norwalk, Connecticut; the Hartford Connecticut region; Louisville and Jefferson County in Kentucky and an adjoining area in Indiana; Nashville, Davidson County and Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Richmond, Virginia; Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ontario, California; Salt Lake City; San Juan,

Caguas, and Guaynabo, Puerto Rico; and Toledo, Ohio.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,327309,00.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

32. *February 1, Chilliwack Times* – (International) **Dike access restricted.** In British Columbia, Canada, strict new security and access rules are in place on the City of Chilliwack's west dike system after vandalism in recent years that has become an "unacceptable risk to the community," according to city staff. Of particular concern is vandalism that occurred at both the McGillivray and Collinson pump stations in 2007. The McGillivray station was vandalized, but the Collinson was damaged so badly it was rendered inoperable. "Fortunately it happened in summer," said the public works director who presented the report to council at their last meeting. "If it had happened during the spring freshet there could have been disastrous consequences."

Source: <http://www.canada.com/chilliwacktimes/news/story.html?id=0cc80a28-26f5-409c-805d-5b6aedcdc924>

33. *February 1, Tennessean* – (Tennessee) **Work set to begin on Center Hill Dam.** Work to repair serious leaks around Center Hill Dam should begin in a matter of weeks, according to the manager of the multi-million-dollar rehab project. In the meantime, the Army Corps of Engineers is in the midst of a series of public meetings in communities along the Cumberland, displaying flood maps and spreading information about efforts to fix the dam and what would happen if it breaks. Without the repairs, officials said, the 57-year-old DeKalb County dam is at risk of failing. A breach in the dam would flood the Caney Fork and Cumberland rivers all the way past Nashville, damaging thousands of homes.

Source:

<http://www.fairviewobserver.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080201/NEWS01/802010402/1321/MTCN06>

34. *February 1, Pittsburg Post-Gazette* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania says mining destroyed lake dam in park.** Pennsylvania has sued Consol Energy Inc., claiming it lied about the risks of mining under Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County and caused the failure of Ryerson Dam, necessitating the draining of Duke Lake, a popular swimming, boating, and fishing spot. The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is seeking compensatory damages in excess of \$58 million, plus unspecified punitive damages, from the Upper St. Clair-based mining company, according to the lawsuit, filed in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court yesterday afternoon. The lawsuit said the cost to replace Ryerson Dam may exceed \$30 million, the cost to restore

Duke Lake will be more than \$8 million, and the damage to the park's natural resources is more than \$20 million. The 28-page civil complaint alleges that Consol knew it was risky to mine near the 62-acre lake and its 45-year-old concrete dam, and falsely represented the level of the risk to the DCNR both before and after the damage to the dam occurred in April 2005. Cracks were first discovered in the face of Ryerson Dam in April 2005, according to state Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Mining and Reclamation records.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08032/853937-85.stm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports — The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389

Distribution Information: Send mail to NICCRports@dhs.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (202) 312-5389 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.